Statis. Tiiit

*Custom duty ad valorem*

| Year | Excise Duty in Rs. / Tonne | Melting Scrap | Sponge Iron | HBI |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ' 1980-81 | •. 220 | Nil ' | Nil | Nil |
| 1981-82. | 220 | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| 1982-83. | 220 | 5 | Nil | Nil |
| 1983^84. | 220 | 70 | Nil | Nil |
| 1984-85... | 220 | 15 | Nil | Nil |
| 1985-86. | 315 | 15 | 25 | 30 |
| 1986-87. | 315 | *25 (upto Dec. 86) (after Dec. 86) | 30 (upto Dec. 86) 20 (after Dec. 86) | |
| March 1987. - | 365 | 20 | 20 | 20 |

**I or Scrap and Sponge Iron. Rise prices of Black pepper**

(5)2329. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a jact that the prices of black pepper has risen quite substantially during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor arid what was the produciion of black pepper during the years 1984, 1985 and 1986;

(c) whether Government ate taking any steps to increase the production of black pepper in the country;

Ul) whether it-is a fact that businessmen are hoarding the Black Pepper and creating artificial scarcity just to increase the price of Black- Pepper; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to reduce the prices of black pepper in the market?

till MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRl YO-GENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b)

©Previously Unstarred Question 1655 transferred from ' 5th May, 1987

Wholesale prices of black. pepper generally recorded increases during 1985-86 because of fail in production in the year 1984-85. However, from November, 1986 onwards there has been a perceptible fall in prices of black pepper.

The All-India Production of black pepper wh'ich stood at 22. 7 thousand tonnes in 1983-84 decreased to 18. 2 thousand tonnes in 1984-85, but increased to the peak level of 30. 4 thousand tonnes in *M* 1985-86.

(c) A number of steps are being taken to increase the production of black pepper. These include production and distribution of rooted cuttings of high yielding pepper varieties; establishment of model gardens for high yielding pepper varieties; distribution of input kits and $_5$prayers to small and marginal farmers; field demonstration of pepper and rehabilitation of pepper gardens.

(d) There are no reports of withholding of stocks of black pepper by traders on a large scale.

(e) Thj; measures taken to give a boost to the production of black pepper in the country arc expected to have a salutary effect on prices.